SOME PIONEER WOMEN

IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

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MARY BOLGER MURPHY (MRS. MARTIN MURPHY, JR.) of the Stephens-Murphy -Townsend Party of 1844

Mary Bolger was born in 1808 in Ireland near the City of Wexford. The British laws against the Catholic Irish were so intolerable that they either had to live in degradation or emigrate. Martin Murphy, Sr. emigrated to Quebec, Canada in 1820, leaving Martin, Jr. and his sister Margaret behind to look after the family interests until they could find a buyer for their farm. Six years later, they emigrated to Canada, also and settled in an Irish settlement, Frampton, outside the city of Quebec. The Murphys had had a close family relationshiop with the Bolgers in County Wexford which continued in the new world and led to a romance between Martin Murphy, Jr. and Mary. They were married in the French cathedral in Quebec on July 18, 1831.

The newlyweds settled down in Quebec where Martin found a job. Six children were born to them in Canada; James, Martin III, Patrick, Bernard, Mary and Nellie. When an outbreak of cholera ravaged the city, they lost the two youngest, Mary and Nellie. They fled the city to Frampton where the elder Murphys lived. Martin purchased 100 acres of land near his father's property and began to clear the dry, hilly land, but found it unproductive. The economic depression of 1837 combined with the ill feelings by the wealthy pro-British settlers similar to what they had suffered in Ireland caused them to look south of the border where the climate was less harsh than the freezing winters and hot summers they found in Canada.

The entire clan from the patriarch Martin, Sr to the youngest child decided to move south and west into the United States. They chose a fertile region east of the Missouri River near the town of Saint Joseph. Martin, Jr. purchased 320 acres near his father's land in Holt County at the confluence of the Platte and Missouri Rivers. The land was rich but the drawback was malaria found in the low lying land. Martin Murphy Senior's wife Mary and Junior's youngest daughter, Ann Elizabeth were among those claimed by malaria. They began to look again for a more favorable climate.

Father Christian Hoecken, a frontier missionary who came to help the grieving family encouraged them. He told them about California, a land of Eden, blessed with much natural beauty and productive abundance plus a climate like paradise. It was also a Catholic country which appealed to the religious Murphys. They sold their land in the spring of 1844, purchasing strong wagons, sturdy horses and oxen and the foodstuffs they would need for the journey west.

They hired Elisha Stephens to guide them and the Stevens-Murphy-Townsend Party of 1844 was on its way west. They numbered 51 of which 26 were Murphys.

Captain Elisha Stephens

Martin Murphy, Sr. and 4 of his single children, Bernard, Ellen, John & Daniel

Martin Murphy, Jr, and Mary Bolger Murphy plus 4 sons, James A., Martin III, Patrick W. and Bernard D. (+Elizabeth Yuba, born in California)

James Murphy, (son of Sr.), wife, Ann Martin Murphy & daughter Mary

James Miller & his wife Mary Murphy Miller (d of Sr.), William J., Frances & Teressa (+ Ellen Indepen-

dence born at Independence Rock, Wyoming)
Patrick Martin and sons, Dennis & Patrick
Dr. John Townsend, wife Elizabeth and her brother, Moses Shallenberger & Frances Deland (servant)
Allen Montgomery and his wife, Sarah
John Sullivan and his sister Mary and brothers, Michael & Robert
Isaac Hitchcock, his daughter Isabella Patterson and her children, Mary, Isaac, Tedra & Margaret
Caleb Greenwood and sons John & Britain (scouts)
Edmund Bray, Vincent Calvin, John Flomboy, Mathew Harbin, Oliver Magnent, Joseph E. Foster-Teamsters & drovers.

The party was the first to cross the Sierra with wagons. They lost no one on their way west and gained 2 babies before they reached Sutter's Fort.

The men arrived at Sutter's Fort, leaving the women and children on the Yuba River where Elizabeth Yuba Murphy put in her appearance. They were just in time to be coerced into a small war between Californio factions and helped with the proviso they would be given land at the end of the hostilities. They rescued their families just in time and managed to go back up the pass to rescue Moses Schallenberger who had stayed with their wagons on Truckee summit in a house which had been hastily built. (This is the same house the Breens stayed in in 1846.)

The Martin Murphy, Jr. family settled on the Consumnes River some 17 miles from Sutter's Fort on two square leagues (nearly 9 square miles) that Martin, Jr. purchased. He planted wheat and Mary became the hostess for many friends, family, visitors and newly arrived Irish immigrants, as well as other housewife and motherly

duties.

They wanted both their girls and boys to be educated, so hired a roving Irish schoolmaster named Patrick O'Brien to teach their children. At first the classroom was in their house, then they built the first school in Sacramento which was called Embarcadero at that time. Other children joined them. All went well until General Sherman claimed O'Brien as a deserter. Since he was the only qualified school teacher in the area, Murphy used his influence to free him. O'Brien arrived unannounced and took up where he had left off, teaching the children. In 1847, eleven wagonloads of wheat from their ranch were brought to Sutter's Fort.

In 1849, Martin Jr. followed his aging father who had settled at San Martín to Santa Clara Valley where he purchased the Rancho Pastorio de los Borregos. (Ranch of the lamb pasture) He paid $12,000 for 4,000 acres which had belonged to Governor Alvarado until 1842, but Mariana Castro signed his deed and the title was later confirmed in 1855 by the U.S. Land Commission when he changed the name to Bay View Ranch.

As before, Mary Murphy greeted all comers with true Irish hospitality. Their new house was milled to their specifications in Maine and shipped around the horn, the first wood framed building of its kind in Santa Clara County. It was fastened together with wooden pegs and rawhide thongs because nails were scarce at that time. It was a two story well kept building with a winding stairway to the upper floor opening off of a spacious central hallway which ran down the middle of the house to an enclosed garden in back. The upper story had spacious bedrooms, closets and baths. In all, it had 20 rooms. A special room was set aside with a consecrated altar stone for the

celebration of Mass, marriage and christening services. When it was finished in 1851, the family often sat on the portico after dinner to watch the parade of boats on the bay.

A local newspaper wrote "Set in a large oak grove with a view of the bay, the Murphy home, Bay View Ranch became a social and political center for the Santa Clara Valley." Much of this could be attributed to Mary's old time Irish hospitality.

The newly appointed Catholic Bishop Joseph Alemany made his headquarters in Monterey but stopped at the halfway point of the Murphy home as he visited his area. He celebrated mass in the room which became known as the "Bishop's Room". Both Martin, Jr. and Mary Bolger Murphy were strongly insistent on religion and schooling for their family. The Penal laws had prohibited Irish Catholics from enrolling in state-sponsored schools in Ireland. This did not keep the Murphys from seeking education for their children.

One of their philanthropies was to help establish Santa Clara College in 1851 (for boys only) and the Murphy boys were in the first class. Their private tutor went with them and became part of the teaching faculty.

Mary was insistent that her girls should also be educated. When word came in that Sisters Loyola and Marie Catherine of Notre Dame Academy stopped in San Francisco on their way to establish a school in Oregon, the Murphys greeted them and brought them to Bayview Ranch as their guests. There the sisters met Bishop Alemany who prevailed upon them to open a convent in California and a school. They started Notre Dame Academy which opened in the fall of 1851 and is still open. The Murphy daughter was among the first 100 girls to seek admittance. Today, the college is in the Ralston Estate in

Belmont, including the Ralson's spectacular house, under the name, College of Notre Dame. A high school is still in San Jose.

Martin, Jr. pioneered a new kind of wheat, citrus orchards, wine grape vines, new breeds of cattle and horses, and the most up to date machinery available. He prospered and bought much more land all over the state, a veritable kingdom. Although he never sought a political office, he first voted in 1850 and was sought after for advice constantly. A painting of the Bayview House hung in the Supreme Court Chamber in Sacramento. Son Patrick represented Ventura, Santa Barbara & San Luis Obispo Counties from 1865 to 1868. Bernard D. represented Santa Clara County in the Assembly from 1868 until he was elected to the State Senate in 1877. In 1878, he became Mayor of San Jose.

Mary was known for her generous and sympathetic nature. When Martin, Jr. was trying to evict squatters from his land, Mary took care of their families which shamed the squatters into vacating the land which the courts had been unable to do.

When the Society of California Pioneers was founded in 1850, admitting only those who had arrived in California before midnight December 31, 1849, both Mary and Martin, Jr. became members. In 1853, when James, Bernard, Daniel T., John M. and James T. Murphy also joined, they outnumbered all the other families listed.

When it came time to celebrate 50 years of marriage, in July 18, 1881, the Murphys did not want to leave anyone out of their "Golden Wedding Celebration", so they planned a weekend celebration with special trains from both San Francisco and San Jose bringing guests to Murphy Station that Martin, Jr. had built when the railroad came

down the Peninsula. He donated land for the tracks in exchange for a train stop. Notices were put in the papers and 7,000 people attended including the most distinguished men in the state. They came from hundreds of miles away to be entertained beneath the shade of the live oaks on the lawn. The streets of San Jose were deserted with most banks and businesses closed, and even an important trial adjourned to allow the judge, jury and sheriff to attend the festivities.

Seven and 1/2 beeves, 14 sheep and 10 large swine were slaughtered and barbequed. There was a wagon load of heavy cheeses, bolognas and innumerable chickens. There were hogsheads of lemonade, 15 barrels of Lager beer, 500 gallons of coffee joined by a full rail car load of champagnes and the best wines of France and California. It was a memorable event with Mary Bolger Murphy as the center of the celebration.

Martin, Jr. & Mary Bolger Murphy were in the party that was:

The first to cross the Sierra at Donner Pass.
The first to bring wagons over the Sierra.
The first whites to see Lake Tahoe.
The first American child to be born in California

They were

The first successful wheat farmers in the Sacramento Valley.
The first to import American cattle and Norman horses.

They built

The first frame house in Santa Clara County.
The first orchards in the Santa Clara Valley.
The first brick building in San Jose.
The first school in Sacramento County.

Helped start the first college in California.
Helped start the first higher education for girls in California.

Martin Murphy, Jr. usually gets all of the credit for their successes but without his wife, Mary, encouraging him and playing hostess for him and half of California, he could not have done it all. It was she who insisted that their girls be educated, too, not just the boys. It was she who raised a successful family dedicated to service, education and strong in their faith. He died in 1884 and she followed in 1892. They are buried in the Mission Santa Clara Cemetery. They were, indeed, California's Irish First Family.

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GRANDMA BASCOM

In May, 1887, an article appeared in the *Overland Monthly* written by Mrs. M.H. Field detailing "Grandma Bascom's Story" which has become a legend in Santa Clara County.

"We reached Sacramento on the last day of October."(no year is mentioned, but since the story is of happenings in 1849, I would assume that they came overland in that year, although I do not find them listed in the California Wagon Train Lists. If they had come by ship, they would not have arrived at Sacramento first.) "Then we took a boat for San Francisco. Our fare was $132, and we were eight days in getting to San Francisco. It rained and rained. I remember at Benicia we paid $1.50 for a candle. At San Francisco we had hoped to find a house all ready to be put together, which Doctor had bought in New York and ordered sent round the Horn. He had also sent in the same cargo a great lot of furniture and a year's supply of provisions, but they never came till the next April, and then everything was spoiled but the house. We had also bought in San Francisco two lots at $1,700 each. The best we could do was to camp on them. The first night in San Francisco, Mr. Bryant came to take supper with us, and the Doctor, to celebrate bought $5.00 worth of potatoes. We ate them all for supper, and didn't eat so very many either. (Edwin Bryant was the Captain of a Kentucky wagon train which left Independence, Mo. on April 20, 1849. Most of the party were from Louisville and a C. Benham is listed which could be Bascom?)

"We had intended from the first to come to the Santa Clara Valley, for the Doctor said that wherever the Catholic Fathers had picked out a site it must be a good

one. The children and I stayed in the city while the doctor went on horseback to San Jose and bought a house for us. Then he came back and we started for San Jose with Professor Jack, while the doctor stayed in the city to buy and ship furniture and provisions to us. We came to Alviso in the boat and paid $150 in fare, for just me and the (6) children. From Alviso we came to San Jose by the Pioneer Stage through fearful mud and pouring rain, paying an 'ounce' each for fare. On the boat I got acquainted with two nice gentlemen, both ministers, whose names were Brierly and Blakeslee. They, too, were coming to San Jose; also a Mr. Knox.

"'We havn't any place to lay our heads when we get there' one of them said.

"'Well, I've got a house,' I said, just as if I was in Kentucky, 'and if you can put up with what I'll have to, you can come with me and welcome.' So we were all driven straight to my house at the corner of Second and San Fernando Streets. It was dark, and the 10th of December.

"'The house had been bought from a Mrs. Matthews and she was still in it. Doctor had paid $7,000 for the house and two 50 vara lots. I expected to see at least a decent shelter, but oh my! It was just as one of the children said, 'Most as good as our old Kentucky corn crib.' It had two rooms and a loft which was climbed into by a kind of ladder. The roof was of shakes and let the rain right through and the floor was of planks, laid down with the smooth side up, and great cracks between that let the water run out. I was thankful for that! There was a chimney in the house, and fire-place, but hardly a bit of fire, nor any wood. It was rather a forlorn place to come to and bring visitors to, now wasn't it? Yet we had been through so

much that the poorest shelter looked good to me, and besides it was our new home. We must make the best of it. Mrs. Matthews had a good supper for us on a table spread with a white cloth, and the children were overjoyed to see a real table-cloth once more.

"'Will you tell me where I can get some wood?' I said to Mrs. Matthews, thinking that a fire would be the best possible thing for us all.

" 'You can buy a burro load in the morning,' she answered. "I've used the last bit to get supper with.' Well, the end of it was we took our supper and went to bed-not on our nice Kentucky feather-beds, but on buffalo skins spread on the floor, and without any pillows. Mr. Knox and Mr. Blakeslee and Mr. Brierly climbed up into the loft, and turned in as best they could. Mr. Knox was sick, too, but I could not even give him a cup of hot tea. I said to Mrs. Matthews that I wished I could heat a stone to put to his feet.

'"Stone! said she; 'there are no stones in this country.'

We slept as if we were on downy beds, we were all so tired. The next morning I bought a 'burro' load of wood for an 'ounce.' Everything cost an 'ounce.' I soon got used to it. Wheat was 75 cents a pound, butter $1.00 a pound, eggs, $3.00 a dozen. A chicken cost $3.00, milk $1.00 a quart. But their prices matched all around. Doctors charged $5.00 for drawing a tooth, and other things in proportion. I don't know as it made any difference. I divided my mansion into four rooms, with curtains. Doctor came and brought us furniture and all the comforts money would buy. He paid $500 to get shingles on our roof. Mr. Blakeslee and Mr. Brierly stayed with us. We all seemed to get on well together. It was not till spring that doctor found a black

man who could cook. He paid $800 for him. Folks said he wouldn't stay-for of course, he was free in California-but he did. He lived with us for four years.

"'People began to ask if they couldn't stay with us just for a few days till they found some other home; and then, somehow, they stayed on. Everybody had to be hospitable. The Legislature was in session and the town was more than full. (First Session, December, 1849-1850) The first thing I knew I had thirteen boarders-senators and representatives, and ministers, and teachers. Nobody who came would go away. I could always manage to make people feel at home, and they would all say that they would put up with anything, and help in all sorts of ways, if I would only let them stay. It was as good as a play to see them help me. Mr. Leek (he was the enrolling clerk in the Legislature) was a wonderful hand to make batter-cakes. We got up a reputation on batter-cakes, and our house was dubbed 'Slapjack Hall,' by my boy Al. It stuck to us. Mr. Bradford, from Indiana, could brown coffee to perfection. (coffee beans came unroasted in those days and the individual had to brown them and grind them before making coffee.)

"Mr. Orr and Mr. McMullen always brought all the water. They were senators. I used to think they liked the job because there was a pretty girl in the house where they got the water. And that reminds me, several families got water from the same well. It was just a hole in the ground, about eight or ten feet deep, and no curb around it. Once a baby was creeping round on the ground and fell into it. The mother saw it and ran and jumped in after it. Then she screamed, and I ran out. There she was in the well, holding the baby upside down to get the water out of its lungs! 'Throw me a rope!' she screamed, and I ran for a

rope. Then she tied it around the baby, and I drew it up. Meanwhile, our cries brought men to the rescue, and they drew up the poor woman. We tried to keep the well covered after that.

"It seemed impossible to get a cook. We even had a woman come down from San Francisco, but she didn't stay when she found we really expected her to cook. She said whe was a niece of Amos Kendall's and wasn't going to cook for anybody. Professor Jack helped me steadily, and, as I said, everybody lent a hand. We had a very gay time over meals, and everybody was willing to wash dishes and tend baby. I used to go up to the Legislature and enjoy the fun there as much as they enjoyed my housekeeping. The March of that winter was something to remember. People used to get swamped on the corner of First and Santa Clara Streets. A little boy was drowned there. It was a regular trap for children.

"Oh, did I tell you I built the first church and the first school-house in San Jose? I did. I built it all alone, with my own hands, and the only tool I had was a good stout needle. It was the famous 'Blue Tent' you have heard of. Mr. Blakeslee asked me if I could make it, and I told him of course I could. He bought the cloth and cut it out. It was of blue jean, and cost seventy -five cents a yard. The Presbyterian Church was organized in it, and Mr. Blakeslee had a school in it all winter.

"We had a good deal of party going, and gave entertainments, just as if we had elegant houses and all the conveniences. The Spanish people were, some of them, extremely stylish. The ladies had dresses as rich as silk and embroidery could make them, and in their long, low adobe houses there were rich carpets and silk curtains trimmed with gold lace. I went to the first wedding in one of these

houses. Miss Pico married a Mr. Campbell. It was very grand, but the odd dresses and the odd dishes upset my dignity more than once. Governor and Mrs. McDougall lived in an adobe house on Market Street, and they had a grand party there.(Second Session-1851) I had a party, too, one day, and asked all the ladies of my acquaintance. Mrs. Branham had given me six eggs, and I made an elegant cake, which I was going to pass around in fine style. I began by passing it to one of the Spanish ladies and she took the whole cake at one swoop, wrapped it up in the skirt of her gorgeous silk dress, and said, 'Mucho gracias.' I was never so surprised in my life, but there was nothing I could do. The rest of us had to go without cake that time.

"Cattle and horses ran about the streets, and there were no sidewalks. We had to just pick our way round as best we could.

"In the spring my piano came. It was sent by way of the Isthmus. It was the first piano in San Jose. It made a great sensation. Everybody came to see it and hear my little girl play. Indians and Spanish used to crowd round the doors and windows to hear the wonderful music, and many a white man, too, lingered and listened because it reminded him of home.

"We moved into a better house in the spring, very near where the Methodist Church South now stands. We paid $125 a month for it. But when I look back it seems to me that I never had such an intellectual feast as in old 'Slapjack hall.' The gentlemen who figured as cooks in my kitchen were the most intelligent and agreeable men you can imagine. They were all educated and smart and they appeared just a much like gentlemen when they were cooking as when they were making speeches in the Legislature. I don't believe we ever again had such a choice

set of folks under our roof here in San Jose. Doctor and I felt honored to entertain them, and yet they paid us $20 a week for the privilege.

"Of course, you know that General Frémont and his wife were here that winter, and I knew them both. Mrs. Frémont's sister, Mrs. Jones, and I were great friends. Yes, indeed, there never were finer people than my boarders and neighbors in '49. Let me see; there were the Cooks and Hoppes, and Cobbs and Joneses, the Branhams and Beldens, and Hensleys and Williams, the Bralys, the Hesters and Crosbys, Murphys, Dickinsons, Hendersons, Kincaids, Campbells, Reeds, Houghtons, Tafts and Moodys. Then amongst the Spanish were the Picos and Suñols. Very likely I have forgotten a great many, just telling them off in this fashion, but I never forget them really. Many of the best citizens of San Jose now, with wives and children, yes, and grandchildren, were slim young fellows then, who had come to California to seek their fortunes. Fine, enterprising boys they were too. Some of them boarded with me. C.T. Ryland and P.O.Minor were inmates of 'Slapjack Hall,' and Dr. Cory and the Reeds will remember it well.

"In 1852 we moved out on the Stockton Ranch, and bought our own farm in Santa Clara, on which we built our permanent home, Somerville Lodge. I remember we paid our head carpenter $16 a day. The house cost us $10,000. It would not cost $1,000 now. We bought seeds to plant a garden and an ounce of onion seed cost an ounce of gold! We paid $6.00 each for our fruit trees. A mule cost $300; a horse, $400. But Doctors' services were just as high priced and so we kept even."

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SARAH MONTGOMERY GREEN WALLIS
of the Stephens-Murphy -Townsend Party of 1844

Sarah Montgomery was a another member of the Stephens-Murphy-Townsend Party of 1844, the first to traverse the Sierra Nevada with their wagons. Sarah Armstrong was born in 1825 in Ohio but her family moved to St. Joseph County, Missouri, when she was five. She married Allen Montgomery, a gunsmith, in 1843 at the age of 18. In 1844, they joined with the Westering party heading to California from Council Bluffs. They split off from the Oregon party at Fort Hall to head across the Nevada desert following the Mary's River (Humboldt) to its sink, then with the aid of Chief Truckee to the Truckee River and on over Truckee Pass. (now called Donner.)

Allen Montgomery was one of the three young men who chose to stay at Donner Summit with half of the wagons. However, when the heavy snows came and the game left, he and Joseph Foster made crude snowshoes and started down the mountain towards Sutter's Fort. Moses Schallenberger could not make the trip down so he returned to the crude cabin to await rescue or spring, whichever came first.

Sarah had gone on with the main party towards the Sacramento Valley. However, a heavy snowstorm and the birth of Elizabeth Yuba Murphy in a bend on the banks of the Yuba River stopped the women and children. They stayed with the help of James Miller and Patrick Martin. The rest of the men went for help and supplies after slaughtering the oxen to feed the group while they were gone.

In mid-December, Montgomery and Foster found the party of women and children in their crude shelter,

then they, too, went on in to Sutter's Fort for help and supplies, arriving just before Christmas. By March 1, 1845, all of the party had been rescued and brought to Sutter's Fort. None had died along the way and they had increased by two baby girl cousins, Ellen Independence Martin and Elizabeth Yuba Murphy. (The first child born of American parents in California.)

Sutter hired Allen Montgomery to whipsaw some lumber for him, so he and Sarah went up Sutter Creek to "Pinewoods". Before the advent of sawmills, pits were dug with one man standing below and the other on the log across the pit to saw boards with a two man saw. They built a small cabin where Sarah had a Quilting Bee in 1846, probably the first in the area. Sutter's diary claimed that all the people in the area attended. Estimates were as high as 20, mostly women of course.

One of the men at the saw pits on the Cosumnes River with Allen was James Gregson. He, his wife Eliza and her mother and children had come to California in 1845 with the Grigsby-Ide party. Eliza and Sarah were friends there and lived together at Sutter's Fort while their husbands participated in the Bear Flag Revolt, helped steal a herd of horses for Frémont and fought in the Mexican War with Frémont's Volunteers.

A Mrs. Leahy and her children also shared their quarters at Sutters. Eliza Gregson taught reading and writing to the children and Sarah also attended the classes. The ladies were at Sutter's Fort when the Donner Party survivors were brought in. They helped out as much as they could.

In the Spring of 1847, Allen Montgomery returned from the Mexican War and apparently deserted his wife. Bancroft cites that he sailed to Honolulu on the *Julia* in

1847, then vanished from sight. They had no children.

Sarah married Talbot Green, a prominent, wealthy merchant in San Francisco in October, 1849. Green had been a member of the 1841 Bartleson-Bidwell Party. He had brought with him a heavy bag of metal he claimed was lead for rifle-balls. When he ran for mayor of San Francisco in 1851, he was exposed as being Paul Geddes, a fugitive bank clerk from Pennsylvania who had stolen gold from his bank and deserted his wife and children. He left pregnant Sarah to go back to Pennsylvania to clear the matter up but wrote to his partner, Thomas Oliver Larkin, admitting his guilt.

Sarah Armstrong Montgomery Green either had her marriage annulled or divorced Green-or did nothing, since it would have been void, anyway. She ran a boardinghouse to support herself and her son, Talbot H. Green.

In July, 1854, at age 29, she married Joseph S. Wallis, a prominent attorney and politician from Santa Clara County. He later became a Judge and a State Senator. Judge Wallis had been born in Salem, Massachusetts on October 24, 1825, descended from Governor Hutchinson. He came to California in 1849 around the horn on the *Capital*.. He helped open up some mines in Yuba County, then returned to San Francisco to read law with William H. Rhodes. He was admitted to the Bar on August 15, 1855, in Sacramento before the California Supreme Court.

In 1856, Sarah bought Mayfield Farm from Elisha Crosby IN HER OWN NAME ! The family located there, building a large home surrounded by orchards and gardens. Sarah became involved in community affairs including bringing the railroad station to Mayfield and starting the First Women's Club. She also lobbied the State

Legislature in Sacramento on Women's Rights issues including property rights, access to state colleges for women and allowing women to practice law. She became President of the California Women's Suffrage Association in 1870 and entertained Susan B. Anthony at Mayfield Farm. Unfortunately, she died 6 years before women were given the vote in California.

Sarah Armstrong Montgomery Green Wallis had five children who became successful California citizens. In 1878, the Wallises suffered financial losses, selling Mayfield Farm and moving to a smaller place nearby. Their mansion burned down in 1936. Judge Wallis died in 1898 and Sarah moved to Los Gatos where she died January 11, 1905. They are both buried at Union Cemetery in Redwood City near El Camino and Woodside Road.

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SARAH LOUISA BROWNING KNOX-GOODRICH

Sarah Louisa Browning was born in Culpepper County, Virginia in 1827. The family moved to Missouri when whe was 11. At the age of 19, she married a Tennessean, William J. Knox. After the marriage, they went back to his alma mater, the University of Kentucky where he finished his medical degree. Dr. Knox, Sarah, baby Virginia and his sister, Virginia Knox came to California by wagon train in 1850. They arrived in the City of Nevada on October 8, 1850, where they made their first home in California. Dr. Knox practiced medicine for a time but found that the proprietership of the South Yuba Canal Company which served mines for several hundred miles around Nevada City was more profitable. He was elected to the California State Assembly in 1854.

In the fall of 1863, they moved to San Jose where he established the First Bank of San Jose with his brother in law, T. Ellard Beans. Both the bank and the Knox Block buildings were designed by architect Levi Goodrich, who also had his office in the building upon its completion.

In 1865, he was elected as a California State Senator. As Senator, with the urging of Sarah who was concerned with the rights of women, he introduced a bill which gave married women the right to dispose of their estates by will WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE HUSBAND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, and subject to attestations, witnesses and proven as any other will. He died in San Francisco while in office, November 13, 1867.

After 22 years of married life with Dr. Knox, Sarah was left a wealthy widow with one child, Virginia Knox,

who was married, in August, 1869, to Cabel H. Maddox of Kentucky. Sarah founded the San Jose Women's Suffrage Association in 1869. She rapidly rose to prominence in the interest of Women's Suffrage in San Jose, the California State Association and Woman's Congress and the National Woman's Suffrage Association. Such well known figures as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were entertained in her gracious home on North first Street.

She was also a member of the Santa Clara County Pioneer Association, the San Jose Library, the Law Library and the Santa Clara Agricultural Societies. She carried on a long legal battle with the government to get her aged mother the widow's pension for the Veterans of the War of 1812, although she had been caring for her mother for some time. She also spoke in front of the California Legislature numerous times.

Early in life, Sarah supported the cause of women, contending that taxing their property and using the proceeds without giving them a voice was unjust, unmanly and diametrically opposed to the principles of the American People. She contended that the "pioneer mothers were as well endowed with the necessary qualifications to use the right of franchise as men, that they too had suffered the hardships and privations of frontier life and have assisted materially in transforming the howling wilderness into a garden of beauty, therefore they should have the same right as the ignorant male Negro of the south, the Chinaman or the alien just arrived on American soil."

Acting on these principles, she refused to pay her taxes and offered publicly to vote on several occasions in order to publicize her cause. She was, of course, refused the opportunity.

At the time of the great centennial celebration of 1876, Sarah knew that the parade would pass two sides of her house, so she affixed sufragette slogans in big letters proclaiming, WE ARE DENIED THE BALLOT BUT COMPELLED TO PAY TAXES and TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IS A TYRANNY AS MUCH IN 1876 AS IT WAS IN 1776 and GOVERNMENT DERIVE THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED. These sayings were direct quotes from some of the founding fathers in 1776 which she was throwing back at the patriots of 1876. When the Sufragettes were accepted to march in that parade, she requested they be put between groups of blacks and Chinese to emphasize her point. Generally, these ladies marched in pure white cotton dresses with blue sashes as you may have seen in the reenactments at San Jose Historical Museum celebrations.

In 1874, Sarah with Mrs. Laura J. Watkins and Miss Sallie R. Hart went to the California State Legislature to testify on the many advantages of giving women the right to hold educational offices in the State of California. the bill was passed in spite of opposition from representatives of their own county except for Thomas Key of Gilroy.

In 1879, she married Levi Goodrich. The ceremony took place in her palatial residence. The Reverend Dr. W. W. McKaig of-ficiated and few family friends attended. One attendee, Mr. T. C. Park is sup- posed to have congratulated the bride "on hav-ing a Goodrich hus-band," and the groom on having a Good Rich Wife!"

Goodrich had come to California on the ship, *Loo choo* , via Cape Horn from New York to San Francisco in 1849. He was the first professional architect to design and build a building in San Francisco. He came to

Alviso in a small sailing craft which took 3 days and nights from San Francisco, then on foot to San Jose. As a carpenter and builder in Massachusetts, he immediately began some of the early buildings in San Jose. His first was an adobe house, using mud from the site of the later Auzerais House. Prominent buildings built by him include the historic Court House across from St. James Park, the Jail, the Presbyterian church, three public schoolhouses, the Bank of San Jose, the State Normal School, the University of the Pacific (Bellarmine) and the Knox and Martin Blocks. (See Thompson & West for buildings) He also built courthouses and jails in Monterey and San Diego. Besides the public buildings, numerous elegant private residences were designed and built by Levi.

After their marriage, he turned more of his business over to his son Edwin, who had trained under his father's eye after college. Levi became more involved with his sandstone quarry off Almaden Road which furnished the building material for the San Jose Post Office- library- now the art museum on Market Street next to Saint Joseph's Cathedral. The stone was also used to build Stanford University, Lick Observatory, and the Knox-Goodrich Building in downtown San Jose as well as buildings in San Francisco and Oakland.

Goodrich died of apoplexy at dinner in San Diego where the couple had gone to visit on April 2, 1887. Levi's only son, Edwin, was killed on July 6, 1903, when an Alum Rock trolley rolled down a steep grade out of control and overturned with him as one of the passengers.
Sarah died on October 30, 1903. She was buried between her husbands Knox and Goodrich in the family plot in Oak Hill Cemetery.

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CHARLIE PARKHURST
The first woman to Vote for President

Charlotte Parkhurst was born in 1812 in New Hampshire and was placed in a Massachusetts orphanage where she grew up unloved and in poverty. She borrowed a boy's clothes to run away from the orphanage at 15 and soon found that life was easier for males.

She applied for work at the stables of Ebenezer Blach in Worchester, Massachusetts and was hired. She cleaned the stables, pitched hay and cared for the horses in exchange for room, board and low wages. She like horses and soon learned how to handle a team and became one of the most popular drivers.

When her employer moved his business to Rhode Island, Charlie stayed with him. Her talents with the horses soon earned her the title of "Whip." It was there that she met two wealthy men who invited him to come west and work for their gold rush transport business.

She came to California in the 1850's to drive a stage in the mines and was soon known as a fearless stagecoach driver, "Jehu." Other famous whips she rode with include Hank Monk, Charlie Crowell and Jared Crandall.

Charlie was of medium build and height with a "whiskey tenor" voice and a weather beaten face. She had broad shoulders and was clean shaven except for a scraggly mustache. She wore pleated blousy shirts, a wide belt, expensive trousers, buffalo skin coat, fancy high heeled boots, a broad Texas hat and embroidered buckskin gloves. The gloves cost $20 and were seldom removed, even to eat. They were necessary for handling reins of a 4 or 6 horse team. She cut a fancy figure, but no one commented on it because Charley was a fighter both with her fists and a long

blacksnake whip. At 15 paces, she could cut a cigar out of a man's mouth or slice the end off an envelope. She could handle herself in a barroom brawl. She had a black patch over one eye she had lost to a horse kick and often, a big cheroot out of the corner of her mouth or a chaw in her mouth. Everyone called "him" Charlie or One eyed Charlie, and no one suspected her secret. She was an expert with 2, then 4, then 6 horses. She was a showy but careful driver.

For three years, she hired out to Ben Holiday out of Council Bluffs, Iowa, his main office, to drive the overland stage. Every Monday morning, Ben hired new drivers to replace those who left from fear or raised scalps. Some of the mountain roads were so steep and narrow that the singletree cut grooves into the banks and hung over the other side where the stopping place was 1000 feet down. These kind of roads plus the Indians thinned the ranks quickly.

When hiring a driver, Ben Holiday asked, "Ever drive a stage before? How long? How near to the cliff could you drive?" many answered nearer and nearer, but Charlie put a fresh chaw in her jaws, closed her jack knife she had used to cut the chaw or to mend harness or to skin a deer. "I wouldn't do at all for you Mr. Holiday. I'd stay as far from that edge as the hubs would let me." That was what he wanted to hear. She held the job 3 years before moving to the Pacific Coast because she was being hard pressed to marry some Mormon girls.

Charlie drove on the Pacheco Pass run, then joined up with the Danforth Porter Lines that connected with the Santa Cruz Stage Line. She was a great "whip," moving with precision as she plied the brakes to stop the 20 passenger coach drawn by 6 mustangs right in front of the

hotels' main entrance. Delftly, she whirled the 6 horse dash around its stock, laid it up, then wrapped the lines around the foot brake, then turned to hand down "the box" or mail or an adventuresome young female who had insisted on riding up front.

When the teams were running all out, the stagecoach would rock back and forth like a boat on the long leather thorough braces which acted as springs, each weighing 50 pounds and costing a $1.00 a pound.

Charlie's rides were hair raising, but he often would cover 60 miles a day on muddy, wet roads, then make the return trip. Once when driving in the Sierra during the gold rush, her team veered off the road and she was thrown from the coach. She hung on to the reins and was dragged along, eventually turning the runaway team into some bushes. The passengers presented her with $20 out of gratitude.

Another time a bandit ordered her to "throw down the box! She complied and the Wells Fargo box was lost. From that time on, she carried her six-shooter on the seat beside her. The next time that command came, she fired into the bushes and killed the highwayman. She didn't have to repeat the action.

Charlie never boasted about her experiences, but others did. She could run both wheels of her stagecoach over a quarter lying in the road with the horses going at stop speed. When asked how she could see through all the dust, she said, "I listen for the wheels to rattle...then I know I am on hard ground. If they don't rattle, I look to see if the road is there!" Then she would spit her tobacco.

Charlie led a lonely life, bunking with her horses, not the other drivers. They said that "He understood his business, he was pleasant and stiddy and sober. And with

the, any feller can do well." She was accepted as "one of the boys," but knowing her secret, she kept to herself. she would gruffly reply that she got along better with her horses than with people. she did, however, carry candy for children in her pocket, help women in childbirth, set broken bones and donated money to needy children.

When a widow and her daughter nearly lost their home, she bought it and gave it back to them, then left in a hurry. People couldn't understand when "he" left such an attractive marriageable daughter behind. Other women had to sit beside "him" and became a bit of a problem.

From 1850 on she was driving near San Jose. In 1865, a notice in the San Jose paper mentioned...

"Upset the stage for Santa Cruz, on Thursday last, containing 8 or 9 passengers. Upset about a mile beyond Mountain Charley McKiernan's and rolled down a gulch about 150 feet. No one was seriously injured. It was caused by McKiernan's hogs rushing down the hill, jumping around the horses while they were making a sharp turn around a point."

After the gold rush, Charlie stopped driving her coach and bought a stage station and saloon between Watsonville and Santa Cruz. When the Railroad reached 12 Mile House out of Santa Cruz where Charlies' Sand Hill Station was, she went out of business and began raising stock on Bean Creek, also hauling for neighbors until she became infirm. She sold her stock and retired to Charley Moss at Moss Landing.

Charlies favorite subjects were horses and the obligation and right of every citizen to vote. One of Soquel's claims to fame was that Charles Darkey Parkhurst,

veteran stage driver voted for President in 1868 at Tom Mann's hotel which may have been the first woman to vote in the U.S. She is listed in a poll list for Soquel precinct which covered from Arana gulch to a point east of Aptos. Santa Cruz County had only 7 precincts at that time. In the list of 329, she is listed Parkhurst, Charles Darkey, Farmer, 55, New Hampshire. There seems to be no record of other elections and who voted.

In 1876, at age 64, Charlie's Rheumatism bothered her so much she sold her ranch and moved into a small cabin on the property of a friend, Mr. Harmon. She lived out her last years there with the help of a hired man and the young Harmon boy.

She developed a persistent sore throat in 1879 and tried treating it with horse remedies and patent medicines which didn't work. When she finally went to a doctor, he found she had developed cancer of the throat and tongue from all the years of smoking and chewing tobacco. Her voice became a whisper and she only spoke when she needed something. She died on December 29, 1879, leaving her possessions of $600 to the 12 year old Harmon boy who had looked after her.

Her partner, Woodward, waxed profane when the undertaker disclosed his findings when he "laid her out." Charlie had deceived him and everyone else for so many years. Supposedly, there were indications that she had sometime given birth to a child and that among her possessions were a red dress and a pair of baby shoes.
Regardless, Charley Parkhurst was one of the most skilled, fearless stage coach drivers of the gold rush era.

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CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ
Suffragist and First Woman Lawyer

Clara Shortridge was born July 16, 1849 in Indiana. Her father was a minister although he had studied law and also practiced it. He told his daughter, it was too bad she was a girl!

With only 4 years of formal schooling, she married Jeremiah Foltz at 15. The Mother of 3 by 19, she followed her husband to Oregon in 1871, finally settling in San Jose, California where he sold real estate and kept a grocery store. Before she was thirty, there were 5 children. She wrote that because her children were robust and well behaved, she had time to attend lecture courses, speaches on women's rights and local political issues. She read books and entertained every educated person she could find. Her first public campaign was a letter writing campaign for the creation of a San Jose Fire Department. With the help of the *San Jose Mercury* editor, J.J. Owen, the first fire department was created.

In 1877, her husband died, leaving her with 5 children, the youngest barely in school. She began to read law with the firm of Black and Stephens in San Jose but the state law limited law practice to "white male citizens, only." She drafted a bill called the "Women Lawyer's Bill" to amend that code and sent it to Senator Bernard D. Murphy of Santa Clara. She lobbied in Sacramento along with Laura De Force Gordon who also desired to be a lawyer. Laura was in Sacramento as a correspondent for the *Oakland Daily Democrat*. The bill passed the Senate 22 to 9 but was held up in the Assembly. Through the efforts of several Assemblymen, it was brought up again for reconsideration and passed by 2 votes. Clara was told that

the bill was dead, that the Governor would veto it, but she pushed through to his office and watched him sign it. Governor William Irwin signed the bill on April 1, 1878, noting that "This bill to entitle women to practice law is wise and just and I take great pleasure in signing it." Later that same year, on September 4, 1878 - She was passed by a committee of lawyers and took the oath to become a lawyer

Clara campaigned for Laura Gordon to be a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1879. Laura was not elected but attended as a newspaper correspondent and spearheaded a Woman's Rights campaign. Article II, Sec. 18, admits women to all collegiate departments in the State University and Article XX, Section 18 states, "No person shall, on account of sex, be disqualified from entering upon or pursuing any lawful business, vocation or profession."

Although both Clara and Laura had already passed the bar, they applied to Hastings College of Law for admittance and were denied because of their sex. They took it to court and although Judge Morrison of San Francisco did not believe in women lawyers, he ordered the school to admit them. When the school appealed, Clara Foltz argued her own case before the California Supreme Court. In November, 1879, both women were admitted to the bar of the California Supreme Court. Clara later wrote of the petty annoyances at the hands of the fellow students at Hastings whom she never heard of again.

In 1880, Clara was the first woman clerk of the Judiciary Committee of the California State Assembly. While there, she wrote a brief on the constitutionality of women voting in all matters concerning public schools. The bill was defeated, but not on its constitutionality.

Both ladies had successful law practices in San Francisco, Laura as a defense attorney in criminal cases and Clara in probate, divorce, corporate and criminal law. They remained friends until Laura died in 1907, sharing an avid interest in Woman's Suffrage besides the law. After all of their gains, they still could not vote in California until 1911 which was too late for Laura.

Clara moved to San Diego in 1887 where she founded a daily newspaper, the *San Diego Bee*. In 1893, she represented the California Bar in Chicago at the International Congress of Jurisprudence and Law Reform at the World Colombian Exposition. In 1896, she was practicing law in New York City, the first woman to argue a motion in the New York City Courts.

The California Woman Suffrage Association had been formed in 1870 and both Clara and Laura served as President in the early 1880's. The first attempt to pass Woman Suffrage in California was in 1896. When she returned to California, she continued to work for the cause. Although near 60, she served as President of the Los Angeles Votes for Women Club from 1906 to 1911, while still practicing law in both Los Angeles and San Francisco. By 1911, they were ready for a second attempt at passage of a suffrage bill.

More than 60,000 personal letters were sent to leaders in various professions. Speeches were made in various men's groups from churches to labor unions. Fifty to sixty meetings were held each week, climaxing on September 30, 1911, with a mass meeting in Los Angeles. More than 4,000 attended and many more hundreds turned away from the largest political demonstration held up to that time in Southern California. Victory was attained. The amendment to the Constitution went to the

voters on October 10, 1911. Los Angeles was the only major city to pass it, but the rural vote turned the tide and it passed by 3,587 votes. California was the Sixth state to enfranchise women.

In 1916, Clara began publishing a periodical, *The New American Woman*, which gave advice on voting and endorsements to sympathetic political candidates as well as articles on women's achievements and a column on laws pertaining to women. It ceased publication in 1918 because Clara's attentions went to The Woman Lawyer's Club.

In 1930, at age 81, she ran for Governor of California, polling 8000 votes. In 1934, at 85, she had planned to run again, but had a heart attack and died.

FIRSTS by CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ

First woman to be admitted to the bar in California.
First woman to argue a motion in New York City courts.
First woman member of the State Board of Charities and Corrections.
First woman to attend law school in California.
First woman member of the Board of Trustees of the State Normal school of Los Angeles.
First woman deputy prosecuting attorney in Los Angeles.
Wrote a bill abolishing a rule that women could not enter a restaurant without an escort.
Wrote a bill on public defenders in 1893 in New York, introduced into 32 states & adopted in California in 1921.
Wrote a bill establishing a parole system.
Wrote a bill persuading San Francisco County Supervisors to stop confining prisoners in iron cages in the courtroom.
Wrote a bill to segregate juveniles from adults in county

jail
Wrote a bill for the police matron system.
Wrote a bill for woman's notaries.
Wrote a bill on delinquent children.
Wrote a bill to allow women to attend the state University and have vocations of their choice.
Wrote the California Constitutional Amendment guaranteeing women their rights

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